

I. THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Transportation Act of 1966 established a new executive department known as the Department of Transportation. The general welfare, economic growth, stability, and security of the nation pointed to the need for the development of national transportation policies and programs effectively using the nation's transportation resources. The Act provided for the inclusion of the Federal Aviation Agency in the Department as the Federal Aviation Administration.

Directed by an Administrator, who is appointed by the President, by and with the advise and consent of the Senate, the FAA has as its primary function the fostering of the safety and development of American aviation. More specifically, the FAA is responsible for developing the major policies necessary to guide the long-range growth of civil aviation; modernizing the air traffic control system; establishing in a single authority the essential management functions necessary to support the common needs of civil and military operations; provide for the most effective and efficient use of the airspace over the United States; and for the rule making responsibilities relative to these functions.

The FAA constructs, operates, and maintains the National Airspace System and the facilities which are a part of the system; it allocates and regulates the use of the airspace; it ensures adequate separation between aircraft operating in controlled airspace; and, through research and development programs, it provides new systems and equipment for improving utilization of the nation's airspace.

The FAA prescribes and administers rules and regulations concerning airmen competency, aircraft airworthiness, and air traffic control. It promotes safety through certification of airlines, airmen, aircraft maintenance facilities, and aviation schools. It reviews the design, structure, and performance of new aircraft to insure the safety of the flying public.

Services provided by the FAA toward the development of aviation and air commerce include:

- Dissemination of news and information on civil aviation generally;

- Publication of flight information data for pilots;

- Development of medical standards for airmen through aviation medical research;

- Technical aviation assistance to other governments, operation of overseas civil aviation missions, and the aviation training of foreign nationals;

- Research and development in the field of aeronautics and electronic; and,

- Other activities required to encourage and foster the worldwide development of civil aviation and air commerce.

Policies governing these programs are developed in the Washington headquarters of FAA and are executed by field employees.

The FAA has nine regional offices strategically located throughout the United States as well as the FAA Technical Center at Atlantic City, New Jersey, and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.